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PREFACE

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SCOPE

The Topical Research Intern Program provides the opportunity for servicemembers and DoD civilian employees to work on diversity/equal opportunity projects while on a 30-day tour of duty at the Institute. During their tour, the interns use a variety of primary and secondary source materials to compile a review of data or research pertaining to an issue of importance to equal opportunity (EO) and equal employment opportunity (EEO) specialists, supervisors, and other leaders throughout the Services. The resulting publications (such as this one) are intended as resources and educational materials and do not represent official policy statements or endorsements of the DoD or any of its agencies. The publications are distributed to EO/EEO personnel and selected senior officials to aid them in their duties.

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A REVIEW OF DATA ON WHITE AMERICANS

In 1850, it was relatively simple to describe a White American. In all probability he or she was of Anglo-Saxon background and Protestant. The term “Anglo-Saxon” comes from a combination of the Germanic tribes that invaded England in the 5th and 6th centuries. These invasions displaced those already living there, who, before the Saxons and the Angles, had already been invaded by the Celts and Romans. After the Germanic invasions, England was, on more than one occasion, invaded again by the Normans and others. As a result, the English who came to America were already the product of diverse ethnic mixtures.

Inasmuch as the English (Anglo-Saxons) were the founders and administrators of the early settlements and colonies, virtually all of the institutions that define America today have their basis in Anglo-Saxon ideals and culture. First and foremost, the English language is the most obvious cultural legacy given to us by the English settlers. The ability to speak English was an important hurdle to be cleared for immigrants who wished to be accepted as “Americans.” Certain values of our society, which include hard work, salvation, discipline, efficient use of time, accumulation of wealth without moral temptation, and others, have all been adopted from English Protestantism. The legal tenets of American law, our economy, political institutions, educational system, and even religious beliefs are all a result of ideals brought by the English colonists.

However, after the Civil War immigrants began coming from Southern and Central Europe. They were not Protestant, not Anglo-Saxon, and had different languages and cultures from those who preceded them. These immigrants were, to varying degrees, expected to fit into the mold of being “Americans.” Although each of these groups has greatly assimilated into American life, each still maintains some of its uniqueness and has contributed much to White American society, as we know it today. (1:42-47)

Although it is almost impossible to describe a White American in the 1990s, it is possible to highlight some of the experiences and contributions of major White ethnic groups who immigrated to this country.

In 1990, approximately 199 million White Americans could trace some of their ancestry back to the following groups (in descending size order): German, Irish, English, Italian, French, Polish, Dutch, Scotch-Irish, Scottish, Swedish, Norwegian, Russian, Welsh, Slovak, Danish, Hungarian, Czech, and Portuguese. In addition, there are many White Americans of Hispanic background. (7:379; 12:53)

This paper will focus on the experiences of some of the major White immigrant groups who came to this country. It also provides statistics that describe the situation for White Americans today.

A superior reference for tracing the history of any ethnic group in the United States is Rudolph Vecoli's *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America*.

BRITISH AMERICANS

- In 1607 the first permanent English settlement in America was established in Jamestown, Virginia. The purpose of this expedition, which consisted solely of single men, was to search for gold as well as establish a trading outpost. For nearly two decades, until a profitable tobacco export was established and the agricultural ability to support the colony cemented, the colony's survival was uncertain. Only after the tobacco trade proved profitable and the food supply stabilized did several thousand additional English settlers, both men and women, ensure the colony's success. (13:474)

- Two hundred English settlers, the Pilgrims, arrived in December of 1620 at Plymouth, Massachusetts. (3:29)

- In 1629 the Puritans came to Massachusetts Bay. Puritan settlers to the New England area differed from the inhabitants of other colonies. Nearly all other colonies were settled by men without education, driven by poverty or misconduct out of their homeland. Puritan settlers were British families with respectable social positions. They were educated and financially secure. They came to America so they could live according to their own principles and worship God in freedom. The unique background of these early Puritan settlers established a foundation for the cultural norms and beliefs of today's New Englanders. The "Blue Laws" prohibiting the conduct of many types of activities on the Sabbath (Sunday) were introduced by the Puritans in New Haven Colony in 1638. These laws were so named because they were printed on blue paper. (2:40-43)

- The Pilgrim and Puritan settlements of Massachusetts alone attracted over 20,000 English settlers between 1620 and 1642. (13:475)

- Many of the early English settlers were a mixture of gentry, clergy, officials, and other educated, if not aristocratic, families. Transported convicts comprised a much larger portion of the early English settlers; over 30,000 convicted felons were shipped to the colonies of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania between 1717 and 1776. (13:474)

- The 1790 census indicated that 78 percent of the 2.75 million Americans were of British background. (2:40-43)

- Immigration from England continued steadily and substantially throughout the 19th century. Frequent periods of unrest in England, usually coupled with events in other European countries, provided peak immigration periods, such as 1820 - 1842, the late 1840s - 1854, and 1860 - 1872. During the final peak of the 19th century, the period of about 1879 - 1893, annual immigration from England averaged over 80,000. By contrast, during the depression years of the 1930s, more Englishmen left America for England than came to the United States. (13:476-477)

- In July 1831, Dr. S. F. Smith took the music to the British national anthem "God Save the Queen," and changed the words to create the song "America." The British had taken the tune from the Germans. (2:40-43)

- Major Contributions: Our predominant language; many of our customs; our court system, including the right to be tried by a jury of one's peers; names of many states and towns (e.g., Delaware; Virginia; New York; Madison, Wisconsin; Plymouth and Salem, Massachusetts; New London, Connecticut) and early forms of punishment (e.g., pillory, stocks, and dunking stools). (2:40-43)

- Famous Americans of British Background: **John Wyeth** (Wyeth Drug Laboratories); the **Wright Brothers** (aviation); **John Underwood** (typewriters); the **Mayo Brothers** (medicine); **Emily Dickinson** (literature); **Marshall Field** (merchandising); **Coats and Clark** (thread mills); and **Arthur Pitney** and **Walter Bowes** (mail machine); **Jane Seymour** (entertainer). (2:40-43)

- According to the 1990 Census, 33 million Americans identify themselves as being of English descent, constituting the 3rd largest white ethnic group in the United States. (12:53; 13:477)

- Currently, the majority of Americans of British background reside in California, Texas, Florida, New York, and Ohio. (13:477)

CANADIAN AMERICANS

- The history of Canada is closely tied to that of the United States. The "Cajun" residents of Louisiana trace their roots back to French Catholic settlements in the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick known as Acadia. Chased out by the English in 1775, they settled in Louisiana in places like Lafayette and New Orleans. They brought with them a unique French influence to the region. (2:36-39)

- Over 4 million Canadians have immigrated to the United States since 1820. The peak for Canadian immigration to the United States was in the 1920s when 920,000 Canadians crossed the border looking for a new way of life. In the 1960s the number decreased to 413,000 and in the 1970s, to 100,000. (2:36-39)

- Canada is made up of persons primarily of British (45 percent) or French (29 percent) descent. Since Canada is a bilingual country, most Canadian immigrants, regardless of background, assimilate easily into American communities. (2:36-39)

- According to the 1990 Census, approximately 550,000 Americans identified themselves as being of Canadian descent. Another 2.1 million identified their ancestry as French Canadian. (12:53)

- Major Contributions: Hockey is recognized as a Canadian sport that migrated to the United States. Famous Canadian hockey players include **Brett and Bobby Hull, Bobby Orr, Wayne Gretzky, and Mark Messier.** (2:36-39)

- Famous Americans of Canadian Background: Canadian-born musicians who are well known in the U.S. include: **Hank Snow, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Bryan Adams, Ann and Nancy Wilson** of "Heart," and **Paul Anka.** Famous entertainers include **Hume Cronyn, Colleen Dewhurst, Christopher Plummer, Donald Sutherland, David Steinberg, Ruby Keeler, Genevieve Bujold, William Shatner, Glenn Ford, Lorne Green, Michael J. Fox, and Jason Priestley.** Television producer **Reuven Frank** (also former President of the National Broadcasting Corporation [NBC]), as well as **Robin McNeil** and **Peter Jennings,** both television news journalists, are Canadian-born. The famous economist and Harvard professor, **John Kenneth Galbraith** is Canadian. **John Augustus Larson,** a Canadian-American who graduated from Boston University in 1914, invented the polygraph machine in 1921. Noted artists of Canadian descent are **Henrietta Shore, Sylvia Stone, and Jacqueline Winsor.** Finally, **Alfred C. Fuller,** founder of the Fuller Brush Company, was an immigrant to the U.S. from Nova Scotia who arrived with less than \$400 and built a fortune in door-to-door sales. (13:247)

- Currently, the majority of Canadian Americans live in the Northeast, the state with the highest concentration is California. The second-highest concentration, by state, is Massachusetts, and third is New York. (13:242)

DUTCH AMERICANS

- In 1609 the Dutch explorer Henry Hudson set out to find a Northeast Passage to the East Indies and landed in what is now New York. (2:98-101)

- The first Dutch settlement in America was in Fort Nassau, near Albany NY. (2:98-101)

- In 1621 the Dutch West Indies Company was formed. It promoted trade and settlement in America. (2:98-101)

- The first group of permanent Dutch settlers came to America seeking religious freedom in 1624. (2:98-101)

- The Patroonship System was established in 1629. Land, along with ownership rights, was given to anyone settling 50 people on their land within four years. To qualify as a patroon, a person had to be a major stockholder in the Dutch West Indies Company since its founding. Although six patroonships were registered, only one was successfully settled. (2:98-101)

- In 1640, in a renewed effort to bring more settlers to New Netherlands, the Dutch West Indies Company developed a charter encouraging persons of limited economic means to settle there. As an early Governor of New Netherlands, Peter Stuyvesant changed it from a trading post to a permanent settlement, which permitted a larger degree of religious freedom. (2:98-101)

- In 1663 a Dutch Mennonite named Pieter Cornelis Plockhoy established the first socialist community in North America. (2:98-101)

- In 1668 the Dutch Quakers established the first declaration against slavery in the United States. In 1758, they expelled from their membership anyone who bought or sold slaves. (2:98-101)

- The attitudes and behaviors of early settlers to this area (much of what is present-day New York) greatly influenced the current culture and characteristics and are distinctive to this part of America. (2:98-101)

- Religious and economic unrest in the Netherlands increased immigration between 1820 and 1865. Until 1845, the average number of Dutch immigrants was 200 per year. In 1845, the number increased to 800, and jumped to an average of 1,150 annually throughout the next decade. A total of about 400,000 Dutch settlers came to America between 1845 and 1930. Immigrants settled in Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, and New Jersey. (13:437)

- According to the 1990 Census, approximately 6.2 million Americans identified themselves as being of Dutch descent. (12:53)

- Major Contributions: City names (e.g., Amsterdam, Harlem, New York); skating; windmills; as well as founding what is now Rutgers University (New Jersey). Dutch words that have been assimilated into the English language include: cookie, boss, sleigh, coleslaw, and snoop. The Dutch founded a number of theological schools, including the Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey, and the Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. (2:98-101; 8:74; 13:444)

- Famous Americans of Dutch Background: **Pearl S. Buck** (author); **Dr. Benjamin Spock** (pediatrician); Presidents **Franklin Delano Roosevelt**, **Theodore Roosevelt**, and **Martin Van Buren**; First Lady **Anna Eleanor Roosevelt**; **John Vliet Lindsay** (former New York City Mayor and Congressman); **Peter Hoekstra** and **Vern Ehlers** (both current U.S. Representatives); **Walt Whitman**, **Peter De Vries**, **David** and **Meindert De Jong** (literature); **Jan Vander Heide**, **Jelle Vander Heide**, and **John Hekman** (three partners in small-scale bakeries who marketed under “Keebler” and “Dutch Twin” trade names); **Cornelius Vanderbilt** (steamship and railroad entrepreneur); **Wayne Huizenga** (co-founder of Waste Management, Inc., and Blockbuster Video); **Walter Chrysler** (automobile manufacturer); **General Alexander Vandergrift** (first Marine Corps officer to hold the rank of permanent general); **Dr. William J. Kolff** (invented the artificial kidney); **Cecil B. DeMille** (motion picture entrepreneur); **Piet Mondrian** (artist); **Bruce Springsteen** (pop singer). (2:98-101; 13:442-443)

- Currently, the majority of Americans of Dutch background live in Michigan, California, New York, New Jersey, and Illinois. (2:98-101)

FRENCH AMERICANS

- The French influence upon American life is disproportionately greater than their actual numbers in the United States. (2:101-104)
- French explorers (e.g., Jacques Cartier, Samuel de Champlain, Marquette, Jolliet, LaSalle) were the first White men to explore areas in the heartland of America (the Mississippi River Valley and all lands drained by it), the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, and Lake Champlain. (2:101-104)
- The earliest French settlements in America were settled in the 1550s by a French sailor, Jean Ribaut, and were originally intended to be trading posts. One was near Beaufort, South Carolina, and the other near Jacksonville, Florida. (13:537)
- In 1562, the first group of French Protestants (Huguenots) came to America because of religious persecution and settled in South Carolina. Afterward, the bulk of French immigrants settled mainly in the inland areas, the areas drained by the Mississippi and Ohio rivers; they penetrated these areas by traveling down the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes, and by traveling up the Mississippi itself. These immigrants earned their livings almost exclusively by trading furs. Despite their wide dispersion, the French influence eventually shrunk back toward the two points of entry into the continent, French Canada and Louisiana. (8:41)
- The French supplied arms and ammunition, money, and clothing covertly to the American Revolution. A French army under the command of the comte de Rochambeau, fought alongside the colonists. The French also provided a fleet of warships. The marquis de Lafayette, a French nobleman, brought his services as a military officer to the American Revolution. His military skills and leadership proved so useful that he was granted an honorary appointment as a major general. (3:295, 339)
- The French Revolution in 1789 sparked a new wave of French immigrants to America, mostly Roman Catholics and about 10,000 political refugees fleeing the revolution. Part of this group was about 100 Catholic priests. This group would have a great deal of influence in the development of the Catholic Church in America, where to date there had been a total of only 25 priests throughout the entire country. (13:538)
- The California Gold Rush spurred another wave of French immigration. Between 1849 - 1851, approximately 30,000 (20,000 in 1851 alone) came to the United States. (13:538)
- Strangely enough, a large majority (more than 60 percent) of French Americans immigrated from Canada, rather than directly from France. (13:538)
- According to the 1990 Census, approximately 10.3 million Americans identified themselves as being of French descent. (12:53)

- Major Contributions: Silk weaving; wine making; city names (e.g., New Orleans; St. Louis; Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Duluth, Minnesota; and Boise, Idaho); fashion; cookery (e.g., Baked Alaska, omelette, puree, mayonnaise, hors d'oeuvres, bouillon, consommé, sauté, filet); and the rag carpet. Some French words that have been assimilated into the English language include prairie, portage, cache, flume, and parlay. The "English" names of two Indian tribes, the Sioux and Nez Perce, are also of French origin. (2:101-104; 8:43)

- Famous Americans of French Background: **Paul Revere** (silversmith and patriot); **John Greenleaf Whittier** (author); **Francis Marion** (patriot); **Pierre Faneuil** (wealthy merchant, donated public market and meeting hall to city of Boston - Faneuil Hall); **Alexander Hamilton** (first Secretary of the Treasury); **Pierre Charles L'Enfant** (civil engineer, fought in the Revolution with Lafayette, later designed the city of Washington, DC); **Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours** (gunpowder); **P. Lorillard** (tobacco); **Philip Armour** (meat packing); **Henry David Thoreau** (philosopher and author); **the La Follette Family** (famous political family in Wisconsin); **Stephen Vincent Benet** (author); **John Jay** (President of 1st Continental Congress, 1st Chief Justice of the Supreme Court); Presidents **John Tyler** and **James Garfield**; **John Garand** (invented the first semi-automatic rifle used by the U.S. Army); and **John J. Audobon** (naturalist). (2:101-104; 13:543)

- Currently, the majority of Americans of French background live in California, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. (13:538)

GERMAN AMERICANS

- The first German immigrants to this country came with the founders of Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. Later, German immigrants founded their own settlement at Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1683. (2:30-35; 13:567)

- Since their arrival in the 17th century, Germans have continued to constitute one of the three largest ethnic populations in America. A German cosmographer, Martin Waldseemuller, first suggested that the New World be named "America." (13:567)

- By 1766, one third of Pennsylvania's population was German. Most were poor farmers who settled along the frontier from Georgia to the New England colonies. By the time of the first census taken in the U.S. (1790), approximately 8.6 percent of the population was of German descent. (13:567)

- The Pennsylvania Dutch (the word *Dutch* being a corruption of *Deutsche*, which means German) were industrious and excellent farmers. Many were also excellent craftsmen; they developed the Kentucky rifle and Conestoga wagon. (2:30-35)

- Although many religious sects existed in Pennsylvania, there was a strong belief in religious tolerance and separation of church and state. (2:30-35)

- John Peter Zenger established the concept of "Freedom of the Press." (2:30-35)

- Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a professional soldier who had served on the staff of Frederick the Great and a veteran of numerous European campaigns, introduced the concept of military discipline into the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He instilled uniformity, regulations and order, and transformed a disjointed group of militiamen into a professional fighting force. (3:331-334)

- During the first half of the 19th century, German immigration exceeded all others. The 1848 revolutions in Europe caused a large influx (nearly a million in the 1850s) of Germans into America. Another three million or so Germans came to America between 1860 and 1890. Germans settled all over the country, but mainly in one large area, described as stretching from Albany, New York, westward all the way to the Dakotas, then south to Nebraska and Kansas, and then back east through Missouri and along the Ohio River to Baltimore, Maryland. German artisans and craftsmen established businesses and helped industrial expansion. German guilds marked the beginning of trade unions in this country. (13:567-569)

- According to the 1990 Census, approximately 58 million Americans identified themselves as being of German descent, making them the largest white ethnic group in the United States. (12:53)

- Major Contributions: Established the first paper mill in the U.S.; founded the glassmaking industry; printed the first Bible in the U.S. colonies; established the first foundry in North America for making type for typesetting; developed the first kindergarten in America; and brought such foods as wieners, frankfurters, noodles, pumpernickel bread, and pretzels to America. (2:30-35)

- Famous Americans of German Background: General **John J. Pershing**; **Albert Einstein**; **Paul Tillich** (Protestant theologian); **Franz Lieber** (founding editor of Encyclopedia Americana); **Claus Spreckels** (sugar); **John Jacob Bausch** and **Henry Lomb** (started optical goods company); **John Augustus Roebling** (bridge builder who constructed the Brooklyn Bridge); **Studebaker** (wagon maker, and later automobile manufacturer); **Pabst, Anheuser- Busch, Schlitz, Coors, and Schmidt** (brewers); authors **John Steinbeck, John Gunther, and Theodore Dreiser**; **John Philip Sousa** (composer and conductor); Presidents **Herbert Hoover** and **Dwight D. Eisenhower**; **Henry Kissinger** (former Secretary of State); baseball stars **Babe Ruth** and **Lou Gehrig**; **Bernard Baruch** (financier and statesman); **Nathan Straus** (founded Macy's Department Store); **John Wanamaker** (founded the department store bearing his name); **Henry Villard** (completed the Northern Pacific Railroad); **Frederick Weyerhaeuser** (lumber entrepreneur); **the Rockefeller Family** (entrepreneurs and politicians); **H. J. Heinz, Hershey, Kraft, and Fleishmann** (of food fame); **Henry Engelhard Steinway** (piano maker); **Werner Von Braun** (rockets); **Robert Oppenheimer, Otto Loewi, James Franck, Victor Hess, Felix Block, Otto Stern, and Hans Bethe** (scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project - the first atomic bomb); **Maximilian Berlitz** (language training); and entertainers **Marlene Dietrich, Florenz Ziegfeld, and Johnny Weissmueller** (actor-Tarzan). (2:30-35; 13:574-575)

- Currently, the majority of German Americans reside in the “German Belt”: Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. Other specific states with high concentrations of German Americans are California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and Texas. (13:570)

IRISH AMERICANS

- The first Irishman to come to America was William Ayers, a member of Columbus' crew in 1492. (14:733)

- Francis Maguire was one of the original inhabitants of Jamestown in 1607. (2:57-60)

- John Coleman accompanied Henry Hudson to America in 1609. (2:57-60)

- Most of the Irish immigrants who came to America in the 17th century were Catholic. Many were poor and came as indentured servants. Many others were exiles, transported to the West Indies by Oliver Cromwell in the 1640s, later finding their way to America. (14:733)

- One of the first Minutemen killed in 1775 was Irish. (2:57-60)

- In 1776, about 200,000 of the 2.5 million Americans were of Irish background. (2:57-60)

- There were four Irish-born signers of the Declaration of Independence and nine Irish American signers. John Dunlap, an Irish American in Philadelphia, printed the Declaration of Independence. (2:57-60)

- During the years 1815 - 1820, over 5.5 million Irishmen immigrated to the United States. Ireland was becoming so overcrowded that the land simply could not support the large numbers. Another problem was the Irish system of primogeniture, or the division of land among one's sons. With the burgeoning population, family farms were divided and divided again until the parcels were too small to support a family. Other problems in Ireland included industrialization, agricultural depression, and a number of potato crop failures. These all conspired to drive the Irish to America. (11:140; 14:734)

- During and after the Great Famine in Ireland, caused by a potato blight (1845-48), immigration to the United States increased. Approximately 1.5 million Irish men, women, and children immigrated to the United States during this 3-year period. (11:144)

- Beginning in the 1980s, there has been a new influx of Irish, immigrants who have come to the U.S. for work rather than remain on the Irish welfare system at home. Today, the Irish face an unemployment rate of 20 percent. Their numbers are currently estimated to be between 100,000

and 150,000. In an effort to stem the tide of illegal Irish immigrants, the United States in 1993 began to increase the numbers of visas available to Irish immigrants. (14:735; 9)

- According to the 1990 Census, approximately 38.7 million Americans identified themselves as being of Irish descent, making them the second-largest white ethnic group in the United States. (12:53)

- Military Involvement: Irish Americans have served in all of America's conflicts. It is estimated that as much as 38 percent of the Continental Army was made up of Irish Americans, despite the fact that they made up only 10 percent of the general population. Fifteen of Washington's 26 Generals were Irish-born. During the Civil War, many Irish units served with distinction, on both sides. Probably the most famous unit was the "Fighting 69th." Thirty-eight Union regiments had the word "Irish" in their regimental names. Over 40,000 Confederate soldiers were of Irish descent. (14:743)

- Major Contributions: Irish immigrants provided the bulk of the labor force in the building of America's canal systems; Irish Americans played a major role in city politics and municipal services; 12 of our Presidents were of Irish background; Although most of the Irish were Catholic, they established the first American Presbyterian Church and the first American Methodist Church; St. Patrick's Day parades are big events in many locations throughout the country. (2:57-60; 8:386)

- Famous Americans of Irish Background: **Edgar Allen Poe, Flannery O'Connor, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Marianne Moore, James T. Farrell, and Eugene O'Neill** (literature); **Georgia O'Keefe** (artist); **Matthew Brady** (Civil War photographer); the unsinkable **Molly Brown**; **Pat O'Brien, George M. Cohan, James Cagney, Bing Crosby, John Wayne, Ed Sullivan, Spencer Tracy, Carroll O'Connor** (entertainers); **Grace Kelly** (actress, Princess of Monaco); **Christopher Drumgoole** (established a home for homeless boys in New York); **James McCreery** (his sizable donations helped found New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art); **Mayor James Curly** of Boston; **the Kennedy Family** (politics); **"Wild Bill" Donovan** (commander of mostly Irish Catholic "New York Fighting 69th" in World War I); **Al Smith** (politician); **Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Eugene McCarthy, and Joseph McCarthy**; **Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill** (former Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives); **Mayor Richard Daley** of Chicago; the "Fighting Irish of Notre Dame"; **John L. Sullivan** (fighter); **George Meany** (labor leader); **Andrew M. Greeley** (priest and sociologist); **Henry Ford** (automobiles); **John Phillip Sullivan** (inventor of the submarine); **William Russell** (founder of the Pony Express); **Howard Hughes** (industrialist); **General Douglas MacArthur**; **John Barry** (father of the U.S. Navy); and **Audie Murphy** (most highly-decorated soldier of World War II). (2:57-60; 14:744-745)

- Currently, the majority of Americans of Irish background live in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and California. (2:57-60)

ITALIAN AMERICANS

- Italians were among the earliest White explorers of this country, including Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci (America was named after him), Verrazano (discovered the Hudson River), and missionaries Marcos de Niza and Eusebio Chino. (2:26-29)

- Philip Mazzei, in 1773, established a plantation next to Thomas Jefferson's in Virginia, where he introduced grapes and olives to America. He also aided the colonists during the Revolution. (2:26-29)

- Italian immigration increased after the failing of a great political uprising in Italy in 1848. In fact, Italian immigration to America between the years of 1876 and 1924 has been labeled a “torrent of humanity.” During this time, over 4.5 million Italians came to America, with over 2 million arriving between 1901 - 1910 alone. The majority of Italian immigrants were poor and settled in New England, the Great Lakes Region, Florida, and California. Most who could not get work in their specialties concentrated in the heavily urbanized states along the Northeast seaboard. (14:766)

- Many Italians fought in the Civil War. L. W. Tinelli organized a foreign regiment, the “Garibaldi Guard,” which achieved a distinguished war record. (2:26-29)

- According to the 1990 Census, approximately 14.6 million Americans identified themselves as being of Italian descent. (12:53)

- Major Contributions: Fairleigh Dickinson University was founded by **Peter Sammartino**, an Italian American professor who taught at Columbia University; America’s largest bank, the Bank of America, was founded in 1904 by **Amadeo P. Giannini**, an Italian American; **Enrico Fermi**, a Nobel Prize scientist, experimented with atomic energy producing a number of feasible uses; Italians introduced several foods (e.g., broccoli, zucchini squash, endive, chicory, and pizza pie) and brought Italian grapes and olives to the vineyards of California and Virginia. (2:26-29; 14:778)

- Famous Americans of Italian Background: **Mother Frances Cabrini** (Chicago social worker and the first American citizen canonized); **Salvatore Giordano** (President of Fedders Air Conditioning Corp.); **Fiorello La Guardia** (Mayor of New York City); **Congressman Peter Rodino**; **Judge John Sirica** (presided over the Watergate trials); **Antonin Scalia** (U. S. Supreme Court Justice); **Anthony Celebrezze** and **Joseph Califano** (former Secretaries of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services); **Arturo Toscanini** (musical conductor); **Enrico Caruso** and **Anna Moffo** (opera singers); **Constantino Brumaldi** (painter who painted the frieze around the Capitol Rotunda); **Emilio Segre** (discovered Technicium, the first artificially created element); entertainers **Frank Sinatra**, **Dean Martin**, **Perry Como**, **Guy Lombardo**, **Tony Bennett**, **Jimmy Durante**, and **Henry Mancini**; sports stars **Joe DiMaggio** and **Vince Lombardi**. (2:26-29; 14:777-779)

- Italian immigrants, much more so than other White ethnic groups, have tended to stay closer. Their neighborhoods in the larger cities have come to be known as “Little Italys.” These concentrations are found in virtually every city in the Northeast, some cities in the Midwest, and more in California. These concentrations are so great that a large majority of Italian Americans can be found in one of these areas. Almost all Italian immigrants settled in only 11 states - New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, and Louisiana. Most clustered in urban areas. Columbus Day parades are important events in many of these states. (14:767)

MIDDLE-EASTERN AMERICANS

- Middle-Eastern Americans are estimated to number two to three million in the United States. The 1990 census shows that approximately 870,000 people identified themselves as being of Arab descent, although it is estimated that the true figure is over a million. This ethnic group is not closely tracked in the U.S. Census and the trail of their immigration to the United States is sketchy. Many Syrians and Lebanese who immigrated to the United States in the last century came under Turkish passports. (2:137-139; 13:85; 5)

- Middle-Eastern Americans are difficult to quantify. Although most are of Arab ethnicity, many are not. “Arab” is a term of ethnic or cultural identity rather than one of national or religious origins. Approximately 70 percent of Middle-Eastern Americans are of Christian background and the remainder Moslem. Of the 21 countries that make up the contemporary Arab world, only a handful are tracked for immigration purposes by the Census Bureau. These are Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. Although the number of Arab Americans is on the rise, the majority of the Middle-Eastern population in the U.S. is made up of Maronite and Melkite Christians of Lebanese descent. (2:137-139; 6)

- The first Lebanese immigrant to the United States on record was Anthony Bishallany in 1854. (2:137-139)

- The first Arabic newspaper in the United States was founded in 1892 as *Kawab Amerika* (The Star of America). (2:137-139)

- In 1919 there were 400,000 recorded Middle-Eastern Americans living in the United States. Most were of Syrian and Lebanese descent, and most lived in New York City. New York still has the largest Middle-Eastern population in the country. (2:137-139)

- Immigration quotas imposed in 1921 and 1924 reduced the allowable annual number of Middle-Eastern immigrants to fewer than 1,000. These restrictions were later rescinded, but the flow of these immigrants into the United States has remained at a trickle. The Census Bureau reported the following figures for Middle-Eastern immigrants by country of origin for 1994:

Country of Origin Number of Immigrants

	(thousands)
Egypt	3.4
Iran	11.4
Iraq	6.0
Jordan	4.0
Lebanon	4.3
Syria	2.4
	(12:11)

- In keeping with previous trends, Arabs represent less than three percent of all immigrants coming to the United States. Their numbers, however, are on the rise. In comparing the decade of the 1970s with the decade of the 1980s, we find that immigration from the countries listed above had almost doubled. In 1994, a total of 31,500 immigrants entered the U.S. from these countries. Of those, almost a third were Iranian, one fourth were Syrian, and one fifth were Iraqi. The remaining countries accounted for smaller segments. (12:11)

- Immigration from other Arab countries, while also on the rise, accounts for a very small number. But the percentages of increase are significant for many of these groups. For example, Sudan, though not considered a Middle-Eastern country, has the greatest increase in immigration to America. In 1992, 675 Sudanese immigrated to the U.S., ten times the number of Sudanese immigrants just ten years earlier. Similarly, immigrants from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Yemen increased more than four times between 1982 and 1992. Kuwait and Bahrain have doubled their numbers of immigrants during that same time period. (5)
Note: Iranians, generally considered Persian and not Arabic, made up the largest group of immigrants from the Middle-Eastern States or Islamic countries in 1994 with a total of 11,400 immigrants. (12:11)

- Major Contributions: Middle-Eastern Americans have made important contributions to American culture. Lebanese immigrants, Farah and Haggar, are two well-known clothing manufacturers in the United States. (2:137-139)

- Famous Americans of Middle-Eastern background: **Robert Aboud** (former vice-chairman of the First National Bank); **Najeeb Halaby** (former chairman of Pan American Airlines); **Lisa Halaby**, his daughter, now Queen Noor, wife of Jordan's King Hussein; **Danny Thomas** and his daughter **Marlo, Jamie Farr**, and **Tigh Andrews** (entertainers); **Joe Robbie** (former owner of the Miami Dolphins); **Abe Gibrón** (former coach of the Chicago Bears); **Michael Debakey** (medicine); **Philip Habib** (State Department envoy to peace negotiations and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs); and **Ralph Nader** (consumer advocate). (2:137-139)

POLISH AMERICANS

- Several Poles accompanied the British when they landed in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. They were experts in the burning of potash, a product needed in the manufacture of glass and

soap, and in production of tar and pitch. These were all products England regularly imported from Poland. (8:28-29)

- They did so well that other Poles were invited to come. However, they were not allowed privileges equal to those of the English. As a result of this inequity, the Poles organized the first American popular assembly and labor walkout in 1619 in Jamestown, Virginia. (2:44-47)

- Dr. Alexander Kurcysz founded the first institution of higher learning in New Amsterdam. (2:44-47)

- Many Polish helped in the fight for American independence. Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Count Casimir Pulaski (father of the American cavalry) organized some decisive victories. When Kosciuszko left America, he left his will in the custody of Thomas Jefferson. He designated that the proceeds from his estate be used to purchase Black slaves and give them freedom in his name. (2:44-47)

- Prior to 1865, most Poles who came to this country were political dissidents, exiled as a result of the partitioning of Poland. It is believed that this was actually a very small number of people, possibly fewer than 2,000. The wave of Polish immigrants (consisting of German Poles, Austrian Poles, and Russian Poles after the partitioning of Poland) who came after 1865 were mainly poor peasants, but also included many craftsmen and educated people. This was a considerably larger group, amounting to approximately two and a half million immigrants between 1865 and World War I. It is estimated that approximately 800,000 Austrian Poles and another 800,000 Russian Poles immigrated to America, but it is also believed that about 30 percent of those who arrived between 1906 and 1914 returned to Poland. (14:1086-1087)

- Poles settled mainly in Chicago, Buffalo, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Milwaukee. Even though most came from rural backgrounds, they became involved in industry, working in the coal and iron fields. Today, over 90 percent of Polish Americans live in urban areas. (14:1087)

- Twelve percent of Americans who lost their lives in World War I were of Polish background, even though at no time did the number of Poles in this country exceed four percent of the total population. (2:44-47)

- According to the 1990 Census, approximately 9.3 million Americans identified themselves as being of Polish descent. (12:53)

- Major Contributions: Poles were instrumental in establishing the first factory in America (glass factory); they also invented the pneumatic dynamite torpedo gun, ramrod bayonet, and telescopic sight for artillery. **Dr. Marie Elizabeth Zakrzewska**, a medical pioneer, was active in women's suffrage and the abolition of slavery. She founded the New England Hospital for Women and Children. Caroline Still, one of the earliest Black women doctors, did her internship at the hospital. It was also one of the few white nursing schools to admit Blacks. (2:44-47)

- Famous Americans of Polish Background: Bronislaw **Malinowski** (academia); **Casimir Funk** (biochemist who discovered vitamins); **Arthur Rubinstein** (pianist); **Samuel Goldwyn**, **Harry and Jack Warner** (movie makers); **Zbigniew Brzezinski** (foreign affairs advisor); **Thaddeus Sendzimir** (revolutionized the steel industry by his new methods of processing steel); **Edmund Muskie** (former U.S. Senator and Secretary of State); **Leon Jaworski** (former Watergate prosecutor); **Leopold Stokowski** (composer/director of classical music); **Gene Krupa** (jazz drummer); **Bobby Vinton** (singer); **Stan Musial**, **Tony Kubek**, and **Carl Yastrzemski** (baseball stars). **Ruth Handler** (founder of the Mattel Toy Co., creator of the Barbie doll); **Oleg Cassini** (fashion); **Edward J. Piszek** (Mrs. Paul's seafood products). **Mike Ditka** (football). (2:44-47; 14:1093-1094)

- Currently, the majority of Polish Americans in the United States live in New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Michigan. (2:44-47)

THE CURRENT STATUS OF WHITE AMERICANS

- In 1990 there were approximately 249 million Americans, 80.3 percent (199.6 million) of whom were White. (7:379)

- Projections of population growth in the United States through the year 2000 made in the 1980s indicated that the white population would not grow as much as other segments of the population; this has so far proven true. In the 1980 census, the percentage of Whites in the general population was 83.1 percent. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in 1996 the population of the United States was approximately 264.6 million, of which about 194.1 million (73 percent) were white. (7:379)

- The growth of the white population is not limited to America's birthrate. Immigration from Europe has continued, and has grown dramatically since 1985. In the years between 1985 and 1994, the number of European immigrants has increased 155 percent. According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, more than 1.2 million European immigrants came to the United States during the period 1984 - 1995. The bulk of this new wave of European immigration has come from Ireland, Poland, and Russia. (10)

- In 1995, 82 percent of white families were headed by a married couple. About 13.7 percent of white households were headed by a female, and 4.3 percent by a male. (12:48)

- In 1995, 11.2 percent of all white persons lived below the poverty level. (7:388)

- The unemployment rate for white Americans in 1995 was less than that for the total population. (12:401)

- In 1995, 25 percent of all Whites had attended some college, with 24 percent of those who attended having completing more than 4 years. (12:48)

DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE DUTY FORCES - TOTAL ALL SERVICES - MARCH 1998

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Native American	Asian-American	Other	Female
OFFICER								
O-11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O-10	36	32	3	0	0	1	0	0
O-9	116	113	3	0	0	0	0	3
O-8	293	276	11	2	3	0	1	4
O-7	468	429	28	5	1	1	4	14
O-6	11,677	10,728	487	165	45	178	74	784
O-5	29,084	25,625	1,914	708	142	482	213	3,324
O-4	43,845	37,805	3,270	1,240	185	843	502	5,782
O-3	76,426	64,024	5,898	2,453	371	2,217	1,463	11,470
O-2	26,316	21,287	2,229	1,127	126	898	649	4,614
O-1	24,991	19,863	2,179	1,162	160	1,002	625	4,129
UNK	563	388	19	2	1	5	148	35
TOTAL	213,815	180,570	16,041	6,864	1,034	5,627	3,679	30,159
WARRANT								
W-5	440	392	33	9	0	3	3	6
W-4	2,258	1,871	209	69	19	56	34	46
W-3	4,782	3,808	565	187	26	87	109	203
W-2	7,185	5,434	1,066	342	42	134	167	522
W-1	2,183	1,469	470	120	12	48	64	214
UNK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	16,848	12,974	2,343	727	99	328	377	991
OFFICER								
TOTAL	230,663	193,544	18,384	7,591	1,133	5,955	4,056	31,150
ENLISTED								
E-9	10,784	7,405	2,186	450	70	486	187	565
E-8	27,631	17,648	6,674	1,494	157	993	665	2,280
E-7	105,977	67,318	26,471	5,752	617	3,423	2,396	10,363
E-6	171,855	108,502	43,387	9,187	942	6,265	3,572	17,390
E-5	251,053	162,708	58,014	15,724	1,466	8,569	4,572	30,207
E-4	273,462	181,880	54,388	21,687	2,183	8,835	4,489	44,763
E-3	195,887	124,921	38,594	20,542	2,044	7,012	2,774	34,437
E-2	104,216	66,993	20,380	10,855	1,384	3,203	1,401	16,587
E-1	61,645	38,063	12,680	6,909	1,100	2,107	786	9,579
UNK	293	15	0	0	0	0	278	1
ENLISTED								
TOTAL	1,202,803	775,453	262,774	92,600	9,963	40,893	21,120	166,172
GRAND TOTAL	1,433,466	968,997	281,158	100,191	11,096	46,848	25,176	197,322

- The birth rate among Whites is lower than that for the total population. (12:20)

WHITES IN MILITARY SERVICE

In 1997, Whites made up 67.7 percent of the total active military force. A further breakdown reveals 84.1 percent of the officer corps as White, and 64.6 percent of the enlisted ranks as White (See Table). (4:12)

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